

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, as follows:

Referring now to the embodiment of Figures 16-18, substrate 18 is further retained in housing 12 by a retaining device 107 ~~106~~. Retaining device 107 ~~106~~ is a rigid insulation board disposed adjacent weak areas 40 of substrate 18. Thus, retaining device 107 ~~106~~ minimizes forces on weak areas 40, and provides a “stop” for mat 16 used at each end of substrate 18. Thus, retaining device 107 ~~106~~, compresses mat 16 to a density above 0.3 grams/cc by placing the mat between the end plate 14 and the retaining device during assembly of reactor 10. Accordingly, retaining device 107 ~~106~~ provides sealant 82 to further protect mat 16.